

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A document search method executed by a document search system having a processor, an input device, a memory, and an output device. for finding a document relevant to a search condition from object documents as search objects, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a seed text which is inputted as the search condition via the input device;

partitioning, by the processor, each ~~the~~ object document into a plurality of blocks;

calculating, by the processor, a similarity of each block of ~~the~~ each object document to the seed text;

judging, by the processor, whether or not the calculated similarity of each block satisfies a predetermined condition;

calculating ~~a similarity of the object document as a whole to the seed text, based on the calculated similarity of each block to the seed text;~~

calculating, by the processor, as an inclusion degree for each object document, a ratio of the number of blocks thereof that are judged as satisfying said

predetermined condition to the total number of the plurality of blocks resulting from the partitioning of the object document;

~~outputting for display a list of object documents showing each object document in association with the calculated inclusion degree therefor, and in association with the similarity of each listed object document as a whole to the seed text;~~

~~providing an interface for setting a threshold value for said inclusion degree and a threshold value for said similarity; and~~

~~displaying only those object documents in the form of a list of search results that satisfy both of or one of said threshold values~~

~~calculating, by the processor, a total similarity of each unpartitioned object document as a whole to the seed text; and~~

~~outputting, via the output device, a search result of inputting the search condition, the search result including an identifier of each object document, the calculated inclusion degree of each object document to the seed text, and the calculated total similarity of each unpartitioned object document as a whole to the seed text.~~

22. (currently amended) A document search system having a processor, an input device, a memory, and an output device, for finding a document relevant to a search condition from object documents as search objects, comprising:

a seed-text text acquisition module, including a program stored in the memory which acquires a seed text as the search condition when executed by the processor;

a partitioning module, including a program stored in the memory which partitions the each object document into a plurality of blocks when executed by the processor;

a similarity calculation module, including a program stored in the memory which calculates a similarity of each block of the each object document to the seed text, and judges whether or not the calculated similarity of each block satisfies a predetermined condition, when executed by the processor;

an inclusion degree calculation module, including a program stored in the memory which judges whether or not the calculated similarity of each block satisfies a predetermined condition; calculates a similarity of the object document as a whole to the seed text, based on the calculated similarity of each block to the seed text; and calculates, as an inclusion degree for each object document, a ratio of the number of blocks thereof that are judged as satisfying said predetermined condition to the total number of the plurality of blocks resulting from the partitioning of the object document, when executed by the processor;

a total similarity calculation module, including a program stored in the memory which calculates a total similarity of each unpartitioned object document as a whole to the seed text; and

an output module, including a program stored in the memory which outputs for display a list of object documents showing each object document in association with the calculated inclusion degree therefor, and in association with the similarity of each listed object document as a whole to the seed text; and

an interface for setting a threshold value for said inclusion degree and a threshold value for said similarity;

wherein the output module further outputs for display only those object documents in the form of a list of search results that satisfy both of or one of said threshold values via the output device a search result of inputting the search condition, the search result including an identifier of each object document, the calculated inclusion degree of each object document to the seed text, and the calculated total similarity of each unpartitioned object document as a whole to the seed text.

23. – 24. (canceled)

25. (new) The document search method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

providing an interface for setting a threshold value for said inclusion degree and a threshold value for said total similarity; and

outputting via the output device only those object documents in the form of a list of search results that satisfy one or both of said threshold values.

26. (new) The document search system according to claim 22, further comprising an interface for setting a threshold value for said inclusion degree and a threshold value for said total similarity,

wherein the output module further outputs only those object documents in the form of a list of search results that satisfy one or both of said threshold values.